PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tsutomu INOUE et al.

Application No.: New Rule 53(b) Divisional of

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/208,749

Filed: March 10, 2004 Docket No.: 113367.02

For: PROBE OPENING FABRICATING APPARATUS, AND NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL

MICROSCOPE USING THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider the following:

Amendments to the Specification; and

Remarks.